

QUEEN LUCILE AND HER MAIDS OF HONOR PHOTOGRAPHED OUTSIDE ASSEMBLY HALL



Photo by the West Coast Art Company of Los Angeles

At the left of the top row is Mrs. W. A. Wetzel, matron of honor; next in order, reading left to right, in top row, the young ladies are: Martha Tadge, Uintah; Rebecca Atkin, Tooele; Sarah Burton, Salt Lake; Mattie Thornley, Davis county; Mina Taylor, Utah county; Ivy Spencer, Sanpete; La Verne Ingram, Juab; Lillian Wright, Weber; Margaret Smurthwaite, Emery; Irene Jackson, Beaver; Ivy Welch, Morgan; Leah Brown, Sevier; Belle Pace, Wayne.

Bottom row, left to right: Grace Hopkins, Millard; Lucy Bronson, San Juan; Ethel Hales, Summit; Mabel Ritchie, Wasatch; Bessie Spencer, Kane; Lucile May Francke, Salt Lake; Tessie Harmon, Carbon; Winifred Cummings, Piute; Hilma Hallman, Iron; Fenella Heywood, Garfield; Sibyl Shafer, Grand; Ethel Jarvis, Washington; Gladys Kimball, Rich; Anna Olson, Box Elder.

CONSERVATION OF WATER IS EARNESTLY DISCUSSED

(Continued from Page One.)

consideration, since it is for them that the projects were being built and through them the reclamation fund replenished, the congressmen insisted that they should not attempt to interfere with the service lest they bring about a serious tie-up of construction operations and delay the completion of the projects.

Merger Hotly Opposed.

An attempt to bring about a merger of the irrigation congress and the dry farming congress on the ground that both organizations had similar problems and aims ultimately identical met with a storm of opposition at the morning session. George H. Maxwell of Chicago, editor of a Chicago publication devoted to reclamation and irrigation, advocated such a merger in a brief speech. He insisted that much duplicate effort could be eliminated and more direct results achieved along the lines of general development of the country by combining the two congresses.

D. H. Wilke, delegate from Colorado, John Knight of Missouri and several other delegates protested strenuously to the suggestion, the remarks of Knight calling for much approving applause. He declared that the irrigation congress had accomplished mighty things in its line and would continue to do so under its own flag, whereas a union with an organization in some ways directly opposite in its aims might develop obstacles. He urged "sticking right at the proposition of irrigation while there yet remains an arid acre capable of being put under the magic touch of water."

Union Not Favored.

Another suggestion far broader than the first, urging the combination of the irrigation congress, the National Reclamation association, the Dry Farming congress, the Transmississippi Commercial congress and other semi-public organizations, was presented to the meeting in the form of a letter from advocates of the plan.

This, too, called for much protest, many of the delegates declaring vehemently that the irrigation congress should not lose its identity after twenty-one years of honorable and successful achievement. Both suggestions finally were referred to the committee on resolutions, but from the manifest attitude of the majority of the delegates, neither has much chance of receiving favorable action.

Knight of Missouri, while unalterably opposed to a merger, presented the suggestion that by an amendment to the by-laws an agreement could be reached between the various public bodies whereby each could send large delegates to the gatherings of the other, thus effecting a co-operation that might prove profitable.

Many resolutions advocating important constructive legislation were laid before

the congress yesterday and referred to the resolution committee for later action. Chief among these was that introduced by George E. Barstow of Texas introducing the Newlands river regulation bill calling for the harnessing of all waterways for the prevention of flood, promotion of navigation, storing of waters for irrigation and power purposes and the building of canals for creation of inland water transportation means. This bill, introduced by Senator Newlands of Nevada, president of the congress, calls for the expenditure of about \$50,000,000 a year for the next ten years and contemplates the scientific control of every large river in the country from its source to its mouth on a scale that will insure the greatest possible amount of good from the nation's water supply.

From the enthusiasm with which this project has been received by the delegates since its first announcement by President Newlands at the opening session, the passage of the Barstow resolution is considered certain. The resolution follows:

To Safeguard Resources.

We heartily favor the principles of this bill which recognizes each river and its tributaries as a unit from source to mouth, and involves the complete control of its waters, not only as heretofore, by levee protection below but by storage and control of the flood waters above in such a way as to promote irrigation, drainage and power, and to mitigate the destructive violence of the floods, thus tending to the benefit of the people.

Another resolution presented by Mr. Barstow calls for the creation by the federal government of an irrigation land fund to aid immigrants and others seeking to cultivate the soil in establishing themselves on the land. The resolution follows:

Whereas, A crying need of the United States today is that a very much larger percentage of its people should become cultivators of its lands; and,

Whereas, A very large percentage of the immigrants coming to our shores belong to the farming class, but lack the means to purchase lands in the great west and southwest parts of our country; be it enacted it is hereby

Resolved, That the twentieth National irrigation congress now convened at Salt Lake City, Utah, recommends that the federal congress at Washington inquire into the feasibility and wisdom of having the national government establish what may be termed an "irrigation land fund," the same to be safeguarded by proper legal and administrative machinery, for the purpose of giving aid and advice in securing land under the public domain and making loans to such immigrants or other people within our borders, so as to enable them to purchase and cultivate such lands and establish homes thereon.

Asks for Consideration.

Kurt Grunwald of Pueblo, Colo., introduced a resolution urging that the promoters of private projects, the federal reclamation authorities and the courts take into consideration the question of the highest amount of good to be gained from the water in settling matters of irrigation rights. The resolution would make the question of beneficial efficiency the basis for the administration of laws governing water rights.

C. S. Kinney of Salt Lake treated the address delivered at the afternoon session.

B. A. Etcheverry, head of the department of irrigation of the University of California, was the first speaker at the morning session. He delivered an instructive address on the need and duty of the public domain in getting the highest possible amount of good out of the water he handles by eliminating unnecessary errors into which the irrigators are inclined to fall and then, by contrast, explained the best methods for overcoming of private projects, and the fact that fully 70 per cent of the water diverted from its natural courses for irrigation throughout America is wasted and that by applying latest scientific methods the same water supply could be made to serve an area two or three times as great as it now serves.

"The importance of effecting this conservation of the available water supply is

paramount," he said, "when it is considered that even under full and economical development this supply will serve but a small portion of the total area adapted to irrigation in the arid and semi-arid regions."

Wasteful irrigation and over-irrigation represents a double evil, Mr. Etcheverry pointed out, inasmuch as the placing of too much water on the land has been the cause of more than 10 per cent of the irrigated lands becoming unfit for crop production. The soil becomes waterlogged and accumulates alkali salts from too much water, he said.

Low duty and high duty of water are coming to be factors in the settlement of water rights in the courts of law, he declared. The courts are beginning to take into consideration the question of which claimant upon disputed water rights gains the highest duty from the water to be diverted.

Faces Real Problem.

J. T. Finkle of Oregon followed Mr. Etcheverry with an address on the "Problems of the Actual Irrigator." He said in part:

Now the first problem, of course, is to grow enough stuff on the land to meet the grocery bill, the banker's notice of overdraft, ditch maintenance fees and taxes.

Eliminate the speculative increase in land valuation and brand it as a curse to the true development of any project. The real problem and only question worth considering is whether or not the land, with such water supply as it has, will make a living for the occupant in a suitable home in which to enjoy that living.

Assuming that the climate and the seasons are right and the market for the product is good, the farmer and water right is \$100 per acre; that the cost of leveling, dyking, surfacing or otherwise preparing for satisfactory and permanent irrigation is another \$50 per acre, and that the money invested is reasonably worth 10 per cent, each acre must return a net annual income of \$15.

Take the simple and staple crop of alfalfa as the first basis for calculation. With thorough winter and early spring flooding this crop will produce in three cuttings an average of six tons per acre. The market value of the alfalfa at present purposes is \$5 per ton. The man with the ten-acre tract has \$30 for his year's work and the man with 200 acres has \$1500 to the good.

For the man with the ten-acre tract the alfalfa as an exclusive production will not be worth while. He must, therefore, work out his problem by the addition of vegetables, small fruits and other diversified products until he can bring his larger fruits into bearing.

Instructive Figures.

The production of alfalfa seed produces net returns of from \$50 to \$75 per acre at present market prices. Fruit, melons and garden truck yield handsome returns, involving more labor and skill, but opening a field of endeavor for many of the moderate means and providing homes for more people.

So we conclude that an investment of from \$100 to \$200 per acre feeding improved land with water right is a safe, sound and conservative investment.

Actual irrigation on the farm, opens an office in farming life. The method is not difficult. The actual work of irrigating is a pleasure and for many people it is a fascinating recreation.

The greatest drawback to an irrigation community is the land speculator. Most good projects are handicapped by vast areas of idle and unoccupied land held for speculation. There are thousands of well dressed and well fed irrigationists busy telling the other fellow how to do it, but themselves touching land to neither shovel nor plow. The speculative craze catches them all. The mind vacillates the atmosphere and contaminates the whole industrial community. Those who believe in the country and apply their time and talents to its development are getting results. Their lands are not for sale and they are building up beautiful homes, where they will be content to live and rear their children.

Presents Solution.

Summing up the whole matter, the great problem and the only problem is to find some people who are willing to work. The big land holder must permit the worker to come within at least calling distance of the "ground floor." Give him a look-in at actual present value for the greater part of your holdings and what you keep, which should be no more than you can successfully work yourself,

will some day make you rich, a healthy and happy man.

Speaking under the topic, "The Farmer's Golden Age," J. B. Case of Kansas declared that the country needs less battleships and more money spent for homes. A portion of his address follows:

The national congress should spend part of the money it is putting into battleships and make it possible for our farmers to live on irrigated farms as well as they can in King George's dominion.

The cold fact is that no amount of patriotism or sentiment can regulate the movement of population. Men go where they think they can improve their condition, regardless of what orators or newspapers or statesmen may say. The renting class moves where land is cheap. The shrewd businesslike farmer figures that he can obtain more acres and make more money.

The farmer and stockman possess the best business occupation in the nation today. With the largest crop production in history, with high prices, with the end of the pioneer period and the disappearance of free land, the chance for the farmers' sons becomes greater each year. But it is evident that a smaller number of boys are staying in the country, though wise men tell them that the profits of the farm are greater than ever before. The relative decline in agricultural population is not necessarily a matter to be deplored.

Hold Need Apparent.

The government has done much for irrigation, but only a trifle compared with its assistance in other directions. The farmers and stockmen of the west should unite to impress on the congressmen and senators the necessity of greater activity in developing the semiarid lands and making homes for the teeming millions in the desert. Every drop of water that falls should be utilized; every foot of tillable land eventually brought under the plow; and the government should get behind the proposition in dead earnest, not only for the good of the people but for the good of the nation.

When the west prospers the nation prospers. It should do this at any cost and do it now. Not less than two members of the president's cabinet should be western men, familiar with every condition of western land and western need. This should be a government of the east with the west forever begging for its share of the benefits. This I believe will come, for the west is asserting its strength. The farmer is to have his innings.

Opportunity at Hand.

With a production exceeding all previous records, with a growing intelligence that teaches how to obtain the most from his land, with a financial position before unknown, with science taking the place of guesswork, with home consumption approaching the measure of production with a steadily increasing price level for everything he raises, with new ideas, new processes, new opportunities, the next ten years promises a reward to the farmer greater than the world has ever known. The coming decade will be the farmer's golden age.

"Irrigation Securities and the Practical Workings of an Irrigation Project" was the subject discussed by George A. Snow, chairman of the Utah board of control. He treated the subject in striking style, drawing upon his own fund of experience as an able and successful promoter of irrigation to prove his assertions. Mr. Snow addressed himself particularly to irrigation securities and denounced forcibly what he termed "silly blue" securities, or fake promotions. He

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advocated a system whereby the farmer and water user could be given complete and correct information concerning a project in which he was about to trust his fortunes and could thus be insured against fraudulent operations.

"Fake projects thrive on the ignorance of its subscribers as to the true conditions," he said. "Knowledge of the essential conditions surrounding irrigation should be more general. Alleged experts sent to investigate projects should be better equipped in the science of irrigation."

Discusses Securities.

Mr. Snow gave many reasons why irrigation securities are discredited when they are discussed for the fullest confidence. He made many suggestions for overcoming the prejudices of eastern capitalists against loaning money on western irrigation projects. He con-

cluded his address with an instructive account of the practical workings of irrigation projects as he knew them through personal experience.

"Irrigation is one of the great world movements for the subduing of the waste places of the earth and solving many of the perplexing social problems of the race—a movement that will be written large in the final history of the race," declared Dr. John A. Whitson, president of the Utah Agricultural college, in an address on "The Rational Use of Water in Irrigation." He said in part:

From its humble beginning in the city, modern American irrigation has grown until the census of 1909 reports nearly 14,000,000 acres of irrigated lands. One-half of this vast area was brought under irrigation since 1899, and three-fourths since 1883.

There are three main stages in the development of an irrigation project.

First, the construction of satisfactory dams and canals in which the water may be stored and then led upon the land; second, the settlement upon the reclaimed land of a sufficient number of people to make full use of the opportunities of the project and, third, the correct use by the settler of the water and land so that the project may be highly and permanently profitable. The first two stages are construction and settlement, once accomplished are practically forever done, but the third, the use of the water, is of annual recurrence and the end will determine the success or failure of the project.

This third stage, the use of water, has been given least systematic attention; but with the increasing population under irrigation, it is insisted

(Continued on Page Three.)



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